

# THE COMET.

VOL. I.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1884.

NO. 37.

## THE COMET.

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Johnson City, Tenn., Nov. 29, 1884.

Circulation 1,450.

### COMET SPARKS.

Never bet till after you find out who's elected, then bet on him.

Never jest unless you can bear to be jested.

Never eat chestnuts just before retiring to bed.

To live cheaply, have dried apples for breakfast, eat them for dinner and let them swell for supper.

Jim Blaine's Augusta speech is in short about this: "I am beat and the d—n rebels did it."

Post masters' wail: "Oh there no pity sitting in the clouds that sees into the bottom of my grief!"

At Augusta, the other night, a large quantity of gas was used from the corpse of the G. O. P.'s leader.

Over 52 thousand post masters will march forth, March 4th. "Good bye my lover good bye."

Republicans regard the result of the election as too flatly sour to be financial.

Hon. Sam W. Hawkins is the finest debater in the Republican party in Tennessee.

He who tussles with a dog is sure to get beslobbered however toothless the animal.

The editors glory: A cold hogs head, an onion, a corn dodger and both young and yelkin at once.

Now the Maine Boatsy and the Massachusetts Beasts are eating with the same spoon.

It must be said to the credit of Mulligan that he proved no mullet head in the enterprise.

What does it profit a post master in this district if he gains Pettibone and loses the whole United States?

Never kick a man when he's down. When Prometheus was chained to the rock, it was not an eagle that tore his vitals, it was a culture.

Some Democrats actually voted for Reid and gave as a reason for so doing, that they hated to go back on a man who had been such a good rebel.

The Republican party is getting to believe very strongly in civil service reform laws. Cleveland will very likely reform the civil service by turning the rascals out.

One of the most valuable pieces of information which the press is telling the people of the United States is this: "The election is over."

Belva Lockwood didn't run for President for nothing. She intends to make it pay. She will start on a lecturing tour before a great while.

Some of our brethren left the camp just before the election. To all wandering saints we say, "Come home, come home, and come quick or you won't get in at all."

Walter Brownlow, at last, acknowledges defeat and cries "fraud." He doesn't seem to know that in using that word he plagiarized from the inscription on his political tombstone.

A correspondent wants to know why Pettibone being a Republican cannot have Republican officers appointed in this District. We answer: Because there is a lake between him and Cleveland.

Just about the time the mercury in Toncraybone's political thermometer reached 100 degrees on account of Pettibone's election the national Democratic blizzard set in and ran it down in five minutes to 40 degrees below zero.

Blaine says it was the rain and Temperance that beat him. The newspapers say it was Rum, Romanism and Rebellion. Whitelaw Reid says it was the Independent Republicans. Walter Brownlow says it was the Solid South. It is our deliberate judgment that it was a man by the name of Cleveland.

Tuesday Nov. 4th will be remembered through all ages as a day when James G. Blaine, the embodiment of all that is corrupt and corrupting in American politics was piloried to all time with as little compunction as a dead polecat is nailed to a barn door.

The Tallapoosa went under the wild waves, drenched by the nozzle of a brig. Jeems Goe Blaine went down under the white capped billows of the popular will, struck on his nozzle by the Schooner St. John. The crew on the deck were unknown, but the crew of the Schooner were rum, romanism and rebellion. Little Rock and Fort Smith, guano, Northern Pacific, and Captain Mulligan.

Oh! Pet, sweet Pet,  
Why dost thou sweat  
In this cold stormy weather?  
Oh! Pet, kind Pet,  
Why dost thou fret?  
We'll all go down together.

Ah, that is why  
I fret and cry,  
And make this dreadful splutter.  
My underlings—  
My pals and "rings"  
Have lost their bread and butter.

Mr. Blaine is very much alarmed because the southern people in their wisdom are Democratic. His speech at Augusta last week was a model sectional hatred sermon. The ex-Plumed Knight is only proving that the American people have made a narrow escape from a great calamity. No man with his views could execute the laws of the republic with an even hand. James G. Blaine's course since the election, has disgusted the Republicans and confirmed the Democracy in their belief that he is a bad man at heart and a corrupt demagogue of the first water. May God still deliver the country from such men.

The Greenville Herald gushes forth its lamentations over the grave of buried hopes. It weeps over the Educational bill and says it is "ignominiously spurned." What a pity such a bill was not passed in the sweet long ago when the editor of the Herald was a school boy. But alas! Even then it was "ignominiously spurned" and consequently the editor of the Herald's mind was "ignominiously" neglected. We were all "ignominiously" set back. But, woe, woe, misery "ignominiously." The cruel Democracy have also "ignominiously" spurned Jeems Blaine, and John Anderson my Joe John Logan and dearie'n Stephen Elkhorns, and the whole possum comet at us of the heretofore "Elect," have been "ignominiously" spurned.

### Justice.

Whatever may have been the cause of the reduced Democratic majority in Tennessee no blame can be attributed to the gallant men who managed the campaign. There never was in our State a more active, watchful, faithful committee. It was no fault of theirs if Tennessee Democracy was discordant and rent with bitter feuds, for they carried out the expressed will of the representative of the party, in convention assembled and directed the campaign in obedience to that will, although hampered by all sorts of disadvantages and confronted by opposition unprecedented in the history of Tennessee politics. They had arrayed against them the most powerful elements of wealth and influence in the State. The rail roads were aroused; the manufacturers were inflamed; the old whigs were exhorted and all manner of means, honorable and dishonorable were brought to bear to wrench the State from the party of Jefferson and Jackson. But Tennessee is still Democratic and Trousdale and Hillsman live in the hearts of the people. All honor to Tennessee, long live Trousdale and Hillsman.

### Periodicals.

The Eclectic for December comprises a varied and striking table of contents. Among the principle articles will be found the following: "Charles Read" by Algernon Charles Swinburne, "Americans Painted by Themselves" by Lady Verney, "Democracy" by James Russell Lowell, "Ulrich von Liechtenstein," "The Future of the Sudan" by Capt. De Cosson, "De Mortuis," a poem, "Newspapers and English," "Goethe," by Prof. J. R. Seeley, "Carlyle's Life in London" by Froude, "Balzac's Dreams," "Queer Flowers," "Steam, the Tyrant," "Coleridge's Intellectual Influence," "On the Reading of Books," "Italian Summers," "Progress and Wages," "The Population of Europe in A. D. 2000," and "Mr. Gladstone."

The Literary Notes, Foreign Literary Notes and Miscellany are usually full, and comprise items of great interest to the general reader.

The number as a whole is very interesting, and closes one of the best volumes of the series of this old and sterling monthly. The next number begins a new volume and will contain a beautiful steel engraving for which THE ECLECTIC is celebrated.

Published by E. R. Pelton, 25 Bond Street, New York. Terms \$5 per year; single numbers, 45 cents; trial subscription for three months, \$1.

The danger of incidental harm to the community, or to certain classes of people, from the increased use of machinery, the extension of public works, etc., is greatly diminished when those who make the laws, and especially those whose duty it is to interpret them, recognize that law is a progressive science; that it is a means, not an end; that when a state of things arises for which there is no precedent, a new precedent must be made. How the most enlightened jurists hold this principle constantly in view, and how

the common as well as the statute law is thus made to keep pace with the general advance of civilization, is admirably set forth in the leading article in the North American Review for December, "Labor and Capital before the Law," by Judge T. M. Cooley, of Michigan. To the same number, William K. Ackerman contributes some suggestive "Notes on Railway Management." Dr. Schliemann tells what he found in his excavations of the ruins of Tiryns, in Southern Greece, and Principal Shairp supplements his scholarly article on "Friendship in Ancient Poetry" with one on "Friendship in English Poetry." The other articles in the number are, "The British House of Lords," by George Ticknor Curtis, and "Responsibility for State Roguery," by John F. Hume.

### A Letter.

Hypocrit Meeten House, State of Maine.  
MISTER EDITOR:—By order of the Blaine and Logan club of this district we hell a indignation meeten last night at yearly candle life. The indignation here is fearful. The object of our meeten was to pass indignation resolutions agin the astonishin turn pollyticks has tuck, and especially at the loss of the post office at this place of which I am Post Master.

When the meeten met,  
Our eyes was mighty wet,  
With flowin tears of indignation.  
We all felt that my post office was lost. Indignation was pictured on every bosom. I, bein the Post Master and the leadin pollytishun of our sexion, called the meeten to order. And it was my espeshal request that there should be no laughin. 'Kernal Littlebone offered the follerin resolutions, toot:

Whereas Jeems Blaine sed he could sweep the country like a hericane, and whereas he didn't sweep it, and whereas Connecticut hoap the durned dimicrats, and whereas it is a great calamity to the post masters. Therefore be it resolved that Blaine is beat. And be it further resolved that Connecticut hoap do it. We therefore view with indignation the alarmin condition of the country and espeshally the post office at Hypocrit Meeten House. Be it further resolved that Burchard is a preacher and that Logan is the worst beat man on the face of the yesth. And be it further resolved that the post offices threwhout the United States is in danger, espeshally the post office at Hypocrit Meeten House. Be it further resolved that we favor the civil service laws. Be it lastly resolved that we are an indignant people espeshally the post masters. I then delivered the follerin address:

FAREWELL TO OUR POST OFFICE.—Where shall the wearied eye repose when gain on the great? The golden sun of liberty has nearly set in the gloom of an eternal night. I profess, sir, in my career hitherto to have kept steadily in view the preservation of our federal Union and the post office at Hypocrit Meeten House. I have not allowed myself to look beyond the Union to see what might lie hidden behind, espeshally my post office. O, felicitous land! pardon my tears. The sun rises in his course and lites a race of slaves. He sets and his last beam falls on a slave. Farewell to all my former greatness! Farewell to my post office! (Great applause.) Farewell my countrymen, all is lost. If I could pluck a quill from the wing of an 'Eagle and quit the crater of Vesuvius, I would put on the pinions of an angel and circling outward and upward cleaving the blue ether in my heavenward flight. I would scale the milky way and upward and outward and onward sweep, and standing poised on extended wing I would write on the burnished stars the indignation that burns in my heart like the fires of a volcano. (Prolonged applause.) Yea, I would pluck a star from its socket and drop it on this mundane sphere and the sea would give up its dead and the saints would burst forth from their graves.—Mr. Editor some old methodical ladies got to shoutin and brother Burchard fell in a trance and the meeten broke up in indignation.

Yours truly, HORATIO SPRIGGINS.

### From Missouri.

LINDLEY, Mo., Nov. 10, '84.  
DEAR COMET:—I left your city on the morning of the 14th of Oct., Wednesday morning found me in Cincinnati by the way of the Ky. C. Railway. I took the train, via Indianapolis. It seemed as if many of the people of Indiana had come to Ohio on election day. Indiana has suffered greatly on account of the drouth. I passed through Tererhau, Vandalia, St. Louis and arrived at Mexico at 3 o'clock Thursday morning and found my son in waiting. This country presents a fine appearance, abundance of grass and fat cattle. This is a fine stock country; it is not uncommon to see cows that will weigh from 1400 to 1900 lbs. I saw 24 last spring calves sold in

Mexico at public outcry at \$22.00 per head. They have an abundant crop of corn. They are feeding cattle for the market here now. I have been in Saline county, said to be the richest county in the State; it was here the great semi Centennial of Baptists met the 21st of Oct., at Marshall; the session was full of interest; they disbursed during last year \$14,000 in supplying the destitution of the State, and what was made up at the meeting would reach \$20,000. They number ninety-four thousand. I have met Rev. D. McInturff, a Tennessean, ago shows plainly upon him, he being 68 years old. I have been told it has been greatly to his benefit, his removal to this State. His sons are doing well and making money. I find my old friend T. H. Crouch, who was one of the Boon's Creek citizens from childhood until 1859, possessed of a good farm, well stocked and making money. In addition he controls 240 acres which belongs to his orphan grand children. He retains his vigor astonishingly, being seventy four years old. The people look as healthy here as anywhere, and I would think this a healthy country. It will be asked what I think of Missouri, I would say, taking her fine soil, her large herds of fine stock, her net-work of railroads, I would think East Tennessee badly left.

### Wise Words.

NEWPORT, TENN., Nov. 19, '84.  
ED. COMET:—The recent victory must not make the Democrats over confident, nor unmindful that the incoming administration will be more closely scrutinized by a vigilant and wily adversary. There is, to use one of Zeb Vance's phrases, "walking ahead of us." A single blunder may lose us control of the government four years hence; and it behooves every Democrat, (it matters not what may be his political station or influence) to advise and act with prudence, and forethought. Unguarded expressions cost much. Blaine believes that Burchard's expression, "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion," cost him the Presidency. It may, it may not, be true, nevertheless, it teaches a lesson, which we should well consider. What every Democrat in the section should be most concerned in now, is to reduce and overcome the Republican majority, which has been, for the last eight years, rolling up against us. The colored vote of this district may be roughly estimated at eighteen hundred votes. In the past this vote has been uniformly sold against us. We should lend every effort to secure this vote to the Democracy, by the use of all honorable means. To take this vote from the Republican ranks and turn it to the Democracy would make a change of thirty-six hundred. It may be asked how this is to be done. I answer and say the way is easy. We all know that for the past twenty four years, the colored voter has been taught to believe that under Democratic rule, not only his rights politically would be abridged, but he would in all probability be returned to bondage. We imagine that but comparatively few of them believe this. But we are mistaken, a majority believe it. We must remember that when citizenship was conferred upon them, it was suddenly conferred. They had at the time no idea of government, or of the spirit and tendency of parties. They judged nationality by their past surroundings. Their former owners were Southern men, and for the most part, were Democrats, begun by narrow and contracted views, (and it was impossible they should judge by any other); this idea of Democratic ascendancy in national politics, meant slavery to them, and this idea was, and is pardonable. Now, that the Democrats are in power, the colored man will have ocular demonstration of the fact, that every right they have will be protected and guaranteed, as freely as under Republican rule. No argument before this would convince them to the contrary. It is not argument now, but the occurrence itself. When they see that they are still free and their rights unabridged, they will then listen to the argument, and be prepared to accept the truth. It is our duty now to explain and show to them how they are benefited and will be benefited by Democratic ascendancy. They have no political recognition whatever at the hands of the Republicans of this District. In every instance their claims upon the Republican party have been ignored and spurned. Upon the Democrats as yet they have no claim. But it may be safely assured that if they range themselves under the banner of Democracy, as they have done in the past under the Republican banner, their claims would meet with far more recognition in the future than has been done in the past. The colored men will have ample time to refresh upon these things. It is their duty as well as their interest, to consider and consider well, which of the two parties is the more entitled to their suffrages.

W. W. LANGBORN.

### A Card.

BISON, TENN., Nov. 11 1884.  
EDITORS COMET:—You will find enclosed one dollar and twenty-five cents. Give me credit for the amount. I have been taking your paper some time. Send it long enough to make out the 12 months. I can't do without it. Its Democracy is good. Since the world has gone Democratic I have got new Democratic religion. We would like to have seen E. L. Taylor at Newport last night. We had a grand Democratic rally there. Everything went off quietly—no fussing. We want R. L. Taylor for our next governor. Hurrah for Cleveland and Hendricks. I am yours Democratically.

AUSTIN ALLEN.

### Live and Let Live.

Robert G. Ingersoll.  
Every man ought to be willing to pay for what he gets. He ought to desire to give full value received. The man who wants \$2 worth of work done for \$1 is no honest man. The man who wants others to work to such an extent that their lives are burdens, is utterly heartless. The toil of the world should continually decrease. Of what use are your inventions, if no additional comforts find their way to the homes of the laboring man?

Why should labor fill the world with wealth and live in want?

Every labor-saving machine should help the whole world. Every one should tend to shorten the hours of labor.

Reasonable labor is the source of joy. To work for wife or child, to toil for those you love, is happiness, provided you can make them happy. But to work like a slave; to see your wife and children in rags; to sit at the table where the food is coarse and scarce; to rise at 4 in the morning to work all day, and throw your bones on a miserable bed at night; to live without leisure, without rest, without making those who love you comfortable and happy; this is not living; it is dying; a slow, lingering crucifixion.

The hours of labor should be shortened. With the vast wonderful improvements of the nineteenth century there should not only be the necessities of life for those who toil, but comforts and luxuries as well.

What is a reasonable price for labor? I answer: Such a price as will enable a man to lay by something for his declining years, so that he may have the feelings of a man.

I sympathize with every honest effort of children of labor to improve their condition. This is a very poorly governed country, in which those who do the most work, have the least. There is something wrong, where men have to beg for leave to toil. We are not a civilized people. When we are, pauperism and crime will vanish from our land.

I sympathize with the wanderer, with the vagrant out of employment, with sad, weary men who are seeking for work. When I see one of these men, poor and friendless, no matter how bad he is, I think that somebody loved him once; that he was once held in the arms of a mother; that he slept beneath her loving eyes and awakened in the light of her smile. I see him in the cradle listening to lullabies sung soft and low, and his little face is dimpled as though by fits of joy. And then I think of the winding paths, the weary roads that he has traveled from that mother's arms to vagrancy and want. There should be labor and food for all.

### Steel Nails.

There seems to be two erroneous impressions abroad regarding steel nails. One is that they are much harder to cut than iron nails, and the second that they are not being introduced very rapidly, the trade being very slow to take hold of them. The reverse is true. The nailers at the Riverside Iron Works, Wheeling, recently cut in one week 7,564 kegs of steel nails. This is the largest output ever made by any factory in the world working 55 hours per week and making standard weights of nails. On the other hand, the demand has more than kept pace with the product. It is asserted that few articles have been introduced to the hardware trade that has won such favor as steel nails. It is asserted that since they began the manufacture of steel nails there has been no time that they were not behind their orders. That the steel nail is a success is evidenced by the fact that one of the Wheeling mills, which has been delaying completion of its projected Bessemer plant until the result of the experiments at the other mills was known, is now pushing it to completion, while other mills are purchasing steel blooms for making nails.—Iron Age.

Few are the friends of the vanquished candidates. Already the men, who a few days ago were lauding Blaine to the skies are now saying that "the old fog couldn't carry anything."

### Crumley's Proverbs.

Our uncharitable remarks of others often wound the feelings, and act as hidden daggers in the hearts of the innocent.

A persons suspicion of others guilt is generally excited by his own corrupt acts.

Now is the winter of our discontent, Made glorious summer by this son of York. A la Cleveland.

Persons are often censured for acts, the intention of which, if known, would be praise worthy.

None of us solicit the companionship of adversity; notwithstanding its refining influence prepares us for usefulness.

He who lives for himself alone lives for naught; but he who lives for others, is a benefactor whose deeds will be commended in life, and his loss mourned.

We receive nothing from the conversation of the sarcastic, but wounds; which in many instances time cannot heal; and which are opened afresh by being reminded of their expressions.

No "Solid South" Now, But a Solid Union.

The "Solid South" is still sneered at after the fight is over, by some Republican papers that cannot take a defeat with the decency and dignity of true soldiers. There was a "Solid South," and the DEMOCRAT glories in it, and to that very "Solid South" the nation is to-day very largely indebted for its disenthralment from the Republican corruptions of the past. We do not expect that the Republicans should hold a jollification over our success, but as long as the success is an assured fact and evidences on all sides are cumulative of the satisfaction which it has brought to the whole country, it was reasonable that a cessation of malicious feeling might take place. The DEMOCRAT is glad to say that in the place of a "Solid South" the country now has a Solid Union. The work of regeneration has been accomplished, and without the "Solid South," the country to-day, instead of resting with renewed hope of deliverance from the mismanagement of Republican misrule, would be remanded back to the vassalage of years. The people have ordered it otherwise. There is now no "Solid South," but a Solid Union. Let corruption take warning.—Chattanooga Democrat.

### Many Millions for Pensions.

Pension Commissioner Dudley's annual report shows that there were at the close of the year 322,756 pensioners, classified as follows: 218,966 army invalids, 75,836 army widows, minor children and dependent relatives, 8,894 survivors of the war of 1812 and 19,512 widows of those who served in that war.

There were added to the roll during the year the names of 34,192 new pensioners and the names of 1,221, whose pensions had been previously dropped, were restored to the roll, making an aggregate of 35,413 pensions added during the year. During the year the names of 16,315 were dropped from the rolls for various causes, leaving a net increase to the number on the roll of 19,098. The average annual value of each pension at the close of the year was \$106.75, and the aggregate annual value of all pensions \$34,556,600, an increase over like value for the previous year of \$2,211,407.92. The amount paid for pensions during the year was \$56,908,597, exceeding the annual value of pensions several millions of dollars, which represents the first payments generally in new claims, and known as arrears of pensions. The amount paid during the year to 31,207 new pensioners was \$23,413,815, and there remained in the hands of the several pension agents 7,023 cases of this class unpaid, in which there was due \$1,919,090.

In the aggregate since 1861 927,922 pension claims have been filed and \$45,130 have been allowed. The Commissioner advocates the adoption of remedial legislation by Congress, which shall take from the claimant some of the burdens which in their operation amount to a practical denial of his claim. The Commissioner adds: "Unless legislation applicable to them be considered, the same to specify the classes to be affected and the character of proof which shall be deemed sufficient to entitle to pension, the result will be to practically deny the pension to many thousands of brave and disabled soldiers whose suffering and unfortunate social condition appeal to the gratitude, the sympathy and merciful consideration of Congress. Perhaps it would be more to the purpose to say that the plea for and in behalf of the veterans was for justice, and justice alone."

Spring would be but gloomy weather if we had nothing else but spring.

It really does look as if this country had not been magnetized to any surprising extent.—Ex.

### Fruits of Advertising.

A prominent business firm in one of our leading cities, who have grown rich by liberally patronizing the printer, gives to their fellow merchants the following, concerning advertising.

"We have for many years studied the art of advertising, and still it remains a marvel to us that there is not a hundred times more of it. We never yet knew a man to advertise his wares liberally and steadily that it did not pay. Yet there are thousands of manufacturers and tens of thousands of men, having articles which they declare ought to be in every household in the country, who advertise as gingerly and closely as though they had at heart no faith in it at all. How can they expect to get their goods anywhere unless some knowledge of the article first gets into the family newspaper? If we waited until people learned from their neighbors, we might wait for years before the most wonderful and most useful invention became known."

### How Franklin Tested the Character of Men.

It is difficult to speak of tests of character without thinking of Benjamin Franklin's amusing tale of the "Handsome and the Deformed Leg," and there is no harm in quoting it, because, however grotesque, it exemplifies the principle of tests. In it he describes two sorts of people; those who habitually dwell on the pleasant circumstances of the moment, and those who have no eyes but for the unpleasant ones. He tells how a philosophical friend took special precautions to avoid those persons who being discontented themselves, sour the pleasures of society, offend many people, and make themselves everywhere disagreeable. In order to discover a pessimist at first sight, he cast about for an instrument. He of course possessed a thermometer to test heat, and a barometer to tell the air-pressure, but he had no instrument to test the characteristic of which we are speaking. After much pondering he hit upon a happy idea. He chanced to have one remarkably handsome leg, and one that by some accident was crooked and deformed, and these he used for the purpose. If a stranger regarded his ugly leg more than his handsome one he doubted him. If he spoke of it and took no notice of the handsome leg, the philosopher determined to avoid his further acquaintance. Franklin sums up by saying, that every one has not this two-legged instrument, but every one with a little attention may observe the signs of a carping and fault-finding disposition.

### Love in the Household.

Whatever else betide, whatever losses may come, or separations intervene let nothing prevent the perfect confidence and mutual love that should exist between the heads of the household. Let each one feel, believe, and know that storms may rage without, but can not come between them; that other friends may be dear and cherished, but no friend can separate them; that fortune may fail to smile, but can not shake the impregnable fortress of their love. In order to preserve this state of affection, there must be entire confidence in each other; nothing must come between them. They can not always feel and think alike; this is as impossible as it is unnecessary, and it is better so. The indulgence they ask for themselves they can readily accord, and should delight to do so. Instead of considering what they have given, they should remember what they have received; instead of making comparisons and estimates as to gifts and services rendered, have hearts full of gratitude for the evidences of affection that gold can not buy. We can not compel love. It is a tender plant that requires the most gentle nurture.

"A word, a look, has crushed to earth  
Full many a budding flower;  
Which, had a smile but owed its birth,  
Would bloom life's latest hour."

A household without love would be like the earth without the sun; a desert, for want of a living spring to waken it into beauty a night without day, a heaven without stars. Cherish love in the household as you would cherish its life; it is its life and glory, and the wealth of the Indies can not atone for its loss. With it, our homes are the nearest approach to heaven our earth affords. A household united in the service of God is a picture of heaven.—Domestic Journal.

Senator Beck, to an interviewer in Washington: "Well, I don't know about the policy of the new administration. I should put Thurman at the head of the State Department, with McDonald as Attorney General, McClellan as Secretary of War and Reagan Postmaster General and leave the rest of the Cabinet open. Now, you may guess at the policy." "But the Independents—" "I suppose Cleveland will fix them all right. A New York man must go at the head of the Treasury." "Will Bayard be in the Cabinet?" "I think not. I don't believe he would leave the Senate for it."—Times.